

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 4 and 5 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 2, 6, 15, and 24 are amended. In addition, the specification is amended to correct minor informalities. Consequently, claims 1-3 and 6-36 are currently pending in this application. Of those pending claims, claims 25-36 have been allowed.

Applicants take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. In light of that indication, Applicants amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5 (which also includes all the recitations of claim 4) to place independent claim 1, and its respective dependent claims, in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Objections to Specification

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification. The Examiner asserted that "each letter in the section heading should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type." Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion because there is no such statutory requirement that the section headings be placed in a specific font style. Moreover, even the Office Action, at the first paragraph under the section heading "*Specification*," clearly indicates that the sample arrangement of the specification, as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b), is a mere "guideline" for a preferred layout for the specification, which is "suggested," not required, for Applicant's use. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

The Examiner also objected to the specification due to a minor informality present in paragraph [071] at page 22. In response, Applicants amended the

specification to correct the minor informality. In addition, Applicants amended paragraph [010] to correct an additional minor informality. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection. Applicants take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for her thorough review of this application and for her identification of the minor informality.

Objection to Claims

Claims 11, 15, and 24 are objected to because of the following asserted minor informalities: (1) in claim 11, the article “the” should be deleted from the phrase “to be peeled away from the at least one of the substrate and the tissue implant;” (2) in claim 15, the word “generically” should be “genetically;” and (3) in claim 24, the word “to” is missing from the sentence “the carrier is configured be”

With respect to items (2) and (3), Applicants amended claims 15 and 24 to correct the minor informalities, as suggested by the Examiner. With respect to item (1), however, Applicants respectfully traverse the objection. Applicants believe that the article “the” should remain in the claim because the term “the at least one of the substrate and the tissue implant” appropriately refers to “at least one of the substrate and the tissue implant,” previously recited in claim 10, that the liner is removably attached to.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections to claims 11, 15, and 24.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 7-24 are rejected under either 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Binette et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,884,428) and Naimark et al. (U.S.

Patent No. 6,893,431). Without necessarily agreeing to these rejections, Applicants note that these rejections should no longer be applicable since all the rejected claims now contain allowable subject matter. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all pending claims.

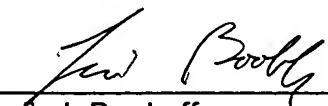
The Office Action contains a number of statements and characterizations regarding the claims and the related art. Applicants decline to necessarily subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action, regardless of whether it is addressed above. In particular, the Office Action includes an Examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowable subject matter, which contains a number of statements and characterizations regarding the allowable claims in view of the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully submit that each of the allowable claims is patentable based on the subject matter defined by the claim language and the combination of recitations within the claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully decline to necessarily subscribe to the Examiner's characterization of the allowable claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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